

Identity

“Hey Sis!”

“Who’s your mob?”

“My mob come from up North!”

“Deadly.”

“Hey, you might be my people too!”

“Who’s your mob?” Heard this before? How many times have you been asked: “Where do you come from?” or “Who is your family?”

This does not mean where you have just come from or how you got here, but meaning ... “Where do you belong?”

By knowing the answers, we know where we belong. It’s our security. It’s our identity!

Our identity brings unity. It’s our family ties. It’s knowing about how we all fit together.

We need to know who we are, where we’ve come from, where we are now and where we’re going.

And we need to feel good about it and good about ourselves.

We want our kids to know our ways, to understand, and to practise them.

Our kids learn at an early stage by watching, listening and practising, and by close contact with others.

Our identity as Aboriginal people keeps growing throughout our lives.

Even if you don’t know all of your family, it’s important to understand how you fit with the family members you do know.

These things might help

- Encourage your kids to know who they are and where they fit.
- Share with them the stories told long ago and use your language.
- Get strength and hope from believing in yourself.
- Get strength from knowing and trusting your belief.
- Never forget where you come from.

Tell our kids to be proud that they are Aboriginal and that you are too!

This tip sheet, along with the full set of Parenting WA guides, is available in electronic format at www.communities.wa.gov.au



Contacts

Parenting WA Line

A free 24/7 telephone information and support service for parents and children pre-birth to 18 years.

t: 1800 654 432 (free call)

w: www.communities.wa.gov.au

Department for Communities

Aboriginal Early Years – Best Start Program

Best Start is a state-wide program for Aboriginal parents and carers with young children from babies to five years old.

Best Start Services are located in the following areas:

- Armadale t: 08 9399 6489
- Carnarvon t: 08 9941 2105
- Goldfields t: 08 9093 3795
- Hedland t: 08 9172 3599
- Mandurah t: 08 9583 9802
- Marble Bar t: 0427 013 144
- Midland t: 08 9274 9411
- Moora t: 08 9651 1294
- Mullewa t: 0408 844 196
- Narrogin t: 08 9881 6693
- Roebourne t: 0438 926 558
- South Lake t: 0427 013 141

w: www.communities.wa.gov.au

Aboriginal Health Services

Contact your local service for a range of health, medical and wellbeing services. Some have women's groups, men's groups and playgroups.

COUNTRY:

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| Albany | Southern Aboriginal Corporation | t: 08 9842 7777 |
| Broome | Regional Medical Centre | t: 08 9192 1338 |
| | Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council | t: 08 9193 6043 |
| | Milliya-Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation | t: 08 9192 1699 |
| Bunbury | South West Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9791 2779 |
| Carnarvon | Carnarvon Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9941 2499 |
| Derby | Derby Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9193 1090 |
| Fitzroy Crossing | Marr-Worra-Worra | t: 08 9191 5089 |
| Geraldton | Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Health Service | t: 08 9956 6555 |
| Goldfields | Bega Garnbirringu Health Service | t: 08 9091 3199 |
| Halls Creek | Yura Yungi Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9172 0400 |
| Jigalong | Puntukurna Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9175 1027 |
| Kununurra | Ord Valley Aboriginal Medical Service | t: 08 9168 1288 |
| | Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation | t: 08 9168 1528 |
| Onslow | Bindi Bindi Aboriginal Community | t: 08 9184 1086 |
| Roebourne | Mawarnkarra Health Service Corporation | t: 08 9182 0850 |
| South Hedland | Wirraka Maya Aboriginal Health Service | t: 08 9172 0400 |
| Wiluna | Ngangganawili Aboriginal Community Health Centre | t: 08 9981 7063 |
| Wyndham | Ngnowar Aerwah | t: 08 9161 1496 |



Guiding our children, our way

Aboriginal Health Services

METROPOLITAN:

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| East Perth | Aboriginal Health Division (AHD) | t: 08 9222 4024 |
| | Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service | t: 08 9421 3888 |
| | Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service | t: 08 9221 1411 |
| Mt Lawley | Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet | t: 08 9370 6109 |
| Mirrabooka | Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service | t: 08 9344 0444 |
| Maddington | Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service | t: 08 9452 5333 |
| | Moorditch Curlongga | t: 08 9459 3049 |
| Mt Claremont | Statewide Indigenous Mental Health Service | t: 08 9347 6600 |
| Perth | Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) | t: 08 9227 1631 |

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap initiatives include grants and funding to support indigenous organisations and individuals.

t: 6218 1400

t: 1300 653 227

w: www.fahcsia.gov.au

Playgroup WA

To find your nearest playgroup.

t: 1800 171 882

w: www.playgroupwa.com.au

Aboriginal History Research Unit (AHRU)

The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) holds family history information including a large collection of personal cards and files relating to Aboriginal people of Western Australia and their families.

www.dia.wa.gov.au click on Aboriginal History Research Unit tab on left.

This Guide uses 'he' and 'she' in turn. Change to suit your child's sex.

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Parenting WA Guide Aboriginal 04



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Communities**
Parenting WA

